

**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, May 14, 1784, from
Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe Correspondence,
Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W. Gawalt,
Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson

Annapolis May 14. 1784.

My Dear Sir,

I hope before this you have safely arriv'd in Phila.. I very sensibly feel your absence not only in the solitary situation in wh. you have left me but upon many other accounts. What direction the delegation may take even for the short space that we shall remn. here, upon the few important subjects that are before us, is to me altogether incertain. The same men still act on the same principles & upon points where not personal objects are in view on either side, accommodation on the part of those gent'n. is , if possible, more difficult to be attain'd. As I have not been able to finish our cypher I can only give you an acct. of one or two measures, by the next post I will send it & before your departure give you information of whatever hath or may happen. We have appointed Colo. Humphreys secretary to the embassy or commission. The report upon taking possession of the western posts hath been before Congress. Hand moved for its postponement to take up a plan of his own, more concise, but not very explicit; his plan is to dismiss the troops at West Point & elsewhere, & enlist others for this service which he supposes may be effected in a very few weeks & in time to serve the purpose of the Indian Comrs. I wish you to inform me what posts you think troops had better be station'd at. I recollect you had thought on this subject & made some amendmt. in the plan propos'd by Gen'l Washington. I am rather an advocate for the dismissal of these troops for a variety of reasons which will occur to you

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& if the levy of others can be effected in time for the western purposes think the difficulty you

had in the winter will be remov'd. I have sent your trunks by the packet to Baltimore & instructed the master of the packet to deliver them himself. I have also forwarded yr. letter to Mr. Curson. Do you recollect anything further here that I should attend to besides those you gave me in charge? Every thing relative to the negotiations are completed so that you will of course receive the instructions immediately. I think you left town before a particular clause had recd. its negative. It was the only

one which remain'd undecided on so that you will comprehend me without my particularizing it. Your letters by post I shall forward to you: the one from Mr. Hopkinson if it arrives I shall attend to & apply the contents as you desir'd me.

I am yr. affec. frnd. & servant, Jas. Monroe

P.S. Partout & myself agree very well only now & then we require the aid of an interpreter. I have had one or two comfortable solitary dinners upon little more than vegetables & coffee cream. He says "comme vous dinez Monsieur tout seul il est tres necessaire pour reduire la provision et pour accomoder la depense a cette changement."

RC (Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress).